

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

JULY 11, 2006

One of the most essential missions of our libraries is to assist individuals with reading and writing improvement and to teach adults and families to utilize the public library as a resource for lifelong learning. For the last twenty years, our libraries have offered free adult literacy instruction through one on one tutoring sessions at library Literacy Centers to meet this goal.

3.8 million Los Angeles County residents have been classified as "low-literate," meaning they could not write a note explaining a billing error, use a bus schedule or locate an intersection on a street map. Furthermore, one in every 10 individuals deemed functionally illiterate is enrolled in literacy classes and half of them drop out within three weeks. In lieu of these shocking statistics, there is no question that the need for more creative and effective literacy programming is a needed resource throughout the county. As a result, our approach to literacy programs has remained stagnant in light of new research and programming possibilities.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD:

1. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Libraries, to analyze and develop a strategic plan on how best to diversify and expand their literacy programs, and submit a report to the Board within 60 days.

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(YBB:KK Library Literacy Program 071106)